



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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January 18, 2023

Dear Tribal Health Leaders,

On behalf of the Department of Health (the department) and in keeping with the responsibility to conduct tribal consultation, I am writing to inform you of the proposed renewal of the Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW), one of Alaska's five 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers. This opportunity for consultation runs concurrently with public comment on the proposed waiver renewal application.

Purpose and content of the proposed amendment:

The department, through the Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS), requests comment from tribal health organizations (THOs) on the proposed renewal of Alaska's Individualized Supports Waiver (ISW) for a second five-year waiver cycle. The current five-year cycle expires on June 30, 2023.

The proposed renewal application includes changes aligning the ISW with revised state regulatory language under 7 AAC 130.206(e), 7 AAC 130.220(c), 7 AAC 130.240(b), and 7 AAC 145.525(a).

As the department expects the ISW to reach capacity by the end of the current five-year waiver cycle, the proposed renewal establishes an ISW waitlist. Applicants are placed on the ISW waitlist based on the date the department receives the initial application form. When there is capacity, applicants will be drawn in "first on, first off" order, instead of being drawn according to individual scoring based on the need for waiver services.

The ISW renewal application can be found on the SDS Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) webpage:

<https://health.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/AK-HCBS-waivers.aspx>

Anticipated impact on Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native/American Indian beneficiaries:

The department anticipates the proposed waiver renewal will continue to benefit to HCBS waiver-eligible tribal beneficiaries as they experience increased choice while obtaining services to address their individualized needs.

Anticipated impact on tribal health programs and the Indian Health Service:

The proposed renewal will not substantively impact Tribal Health Organizations (THO) or the Indian Health Services (IHS).

Mechanism and timeline for comment:

Written comments or questions regarding the proposed waiver renewal are due no later than February 20, 2023, by 5:00 PM. If seeking an in-person meeting to discuss the proposed changes, please provide a written request within 15-days of the date of this letter. Please direct all written correspondence Emily Beaulieu, Alaska Department of Health, 3601 C Street, Suite 902, Anchorage, AK 99503, or Emily.beaulieu@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Emily Beaulieu, Medicaid State Plan Coordinator